

Rs.25.0 crore. An expenditure of Rs.13.99 crore has been incurred upto March, 2001.

**Hirma Power Project in Orissa**

1147. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Hirma Power Project in Orissa has been slowed down on account of coal supply; and

(b) if so, the action taken to negotiate with the Coal India Limited for the uninterrupted supply of Coal for timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long term) of the Ministry of Coal, in its meeting held on December 15, 2000, granted a coal linkage of 22.4 million tonnes per annum from the Kulda and Garjanbahal coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) to the 6×660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in Orissa being promoted by M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd. [earlier known as M/s. Southern Energy Asia Pacific Limited (SEAP), [Hong Kong] and Reliance Power Ltd. There has been some slippage in the schedule for negotiation of the Fuel Supply Agreement for the project due to rejection of forest clearance for the Kulda mines. The promoters of the project are in negotiation with MCL for expeditious implementation of the mining projects.

**Construction of Hydel Power Projects in the country**

†1148. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign capital investment has been allowed in power generation sector in the country during the last decade or so;

(b) if so, when a decision to this effect was taken;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.